



The Statistical Accounts of Scotland

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What are the Statistical Accounts?

Commissioned by Sir John Sinclair, a Member of Parliament, who wanted to record the economic and social activities and natural resources of Scotland.

- Written by Church of Scotland ministers and organized by parish.
- Old Statistical Account published between 1791 and 1799
- New Statistical Account published between 1834 and 1845
- Third Statistical Account published between 1951 and 1992
- Include information on occupations, social customs, religion, trade, population, antiquities

Reasons to use the accounts in your research

- Unexpected historical detail
- Specific context can help solve research problems
- Determine if there are record gaps
- Compare how parishes changed over time

How to access the statistical accounts

The Old and New Accounts are in the public domain.

1. Google Books
2. Archive.org
3. Official site for the Old and New Accounts 1791-1845
 - <http://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk>
 - Fully digitized and indexed for free
 - Can search by specific parish and download sections
 - Includes maps and articles about the history

